

~~EYES ONLY~~

DDP

Mr Sheldon

Motest

*[Handwritten signature]*

FOR THE DIRECTOR

~~EYES ONLY~~

~~SECRET~~  
~~NOFORN~~

27 September 1957

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: State-JCS Meeting Held 1130, 27 September 1957

The State Department was represented by Messrs. Murphy, Robertson and Reinhardt. General Taylor was Acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and with him were Admiral Burke, Generals White and Pate. The meeting lasted one hour and all of the five topics which I will deal with hereunder were put on the agenda by the Department.

1. Agenda Item 1: Burma

The Department referred to the decision made by the President many months ago that Burma would receive military aid in the amount of ten million dollars. Robertson, who handled this topic, stated that the provision of assistance seemed to be on dead center and he wished to inquire whether the Joint Chiefs had any second thoughts in the matter. He stressed that the orientation of Burma was strongly toward the West and that Under Secretary Herter, during his recent trip, had been taken aside by U Nu and been told categorically that the US could rest assured that Burma's orientation would remain strongly pro West and inquired again as to when Burma might expect assistance in the military field. Robertson referred to a draft outgoing cable which he had with him which he stated he had had difficulty in obtaining Pentagon concurrence on and which he felt should be dispatched to advise the Burmese Government that the US was prepared in the near future to receive a Burmese delegation to work out the details of accounting, etc. with respect to the military items.

~~SECRET~~  
~~NOFORN~~

~~SECRET~~

General Taylor thereupon inquired from his staff what the status of the Burmese problem was and was advised that the Joint Chiefs would shortly receive a staff study which would, it was indicated, permit the machinery of military aid to start functioning. General Taylor also indicated that he would respond to the Department during the day on the question of clearing the cable in question.

2. Agenda Item 2: US Force Reductions in Europe and Far East

Mr. Murphy said that the Department was concerned lest publicity regarding proposed troop reductions in Europe and the Far East might be released before the Department had the occasion to prepare the way both within NATO and with certain countries who would be directly affected. General Taylor, speaking for the Army, said that for the Fiscal Year 1958 the troop reductions in Europe would amount to 2,000 and that he felt that this was not likely to cause undue alarm. He added, however, that this figure did not include a planned reduction of US forces in Iceland which he said he could well understand might require careful preparation with the Icelanders and he requested that a specific target date be set for planning purposes both to permit the orderly withdrawal and to permit the Department to take the necessary action with the Icelandic authorities. It was agreed that the Department would make a recommendation in this instance and they seemed to have 1 January in mind. General Taylor then went on to state that it was his personal view that substantial reductions in US forces abroad would probably be required by budgetary considerations in Fiscal Year 1959 but he was not prepared to give any estimates at this time. Admiral Burke then, speaking for the Navy, said that the dispositions

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

overseas of naval vessels would not be modified to an extent which he thought would become noticeable but that the reduction in overseas waters of naval units was largely being made at the expense of curtailing the vessel strength in home waters and that this would amount to approximately 10 per cent of the present fleet strength. He stressed that the moth balling of over 100 vessels would undoubtedly be publicized in the US press. He also referred to a contemplated reduction of carrier strength in the Pacific from 4 to 3 carriers but indicated that this would be closely held and that he considered it a sensitive item. Burke also emphasized that for the Fiscal Year 1959 he foresaw that future reductions in naval forces would probably be required. General White in reviewing the air commitments to NATO stated that in the Fiscal Year 1958 which SACEUR was on record for a commitment of 75 squadrons, that this figure, while earmarked for NATO, would be met only to the extent of 42 squadrons actually located in Europe and it was his estimate that for the Fiscal Year 1959 a further reduction of 5 additional squadrons in place in Europe would probably be the actual situation. The Department requested that it be informed as promptly as possible of specific contemplated reductions in US forces abroad so that it could pave the way both within NATO and the countries involved and this was readily agreed to by the Joint Chiefs.

3. Agenda Item 3: Evaluation of Troop Movements -- Egypt and Syria

Mr. Murphy requested the Joint Chiefs to comment on whether they had any knowledge that Syria had moved troops recently to the Turkish border and also whether they had knowledge of any Egyptian troop movements which might be in support of Syria. The Joint Chiefs' response in both instances was negative. They did not believe that the Syrians had moved

~~SECRET~~

troops to the Turkish border and referred to the Syrian troop maneuvers which had recently been in progress. They also said that they had no indication or information that there had been any change during the past few months in Egyptian troops dispositions.


4. Agenda Item 4: Desirability of Liaison between State Policy Planning Staff and Joint Staff

Mr. Murphy raised the desirability of closer liaison between State's Policy Planning Staff and the Joint Staff. There was a brief discussion on this subject and Mr. Murphy said that he would send the Joint Chiefs a memorandum outlining the Department's views and the ways and means by which it was hoped a closer day-by-day working arrangement could be effected and General Taylor voiced his approval in principle of the proposal.

5. Agenda Item 5: French Desire for IRBMs

Mr. Murphy raised as a query and for information purposes a recent approach by the French that they be furnished IRBMs by the US. He stated that this appeared to be a preliminary sounding on the part of the French, that no specific numbers or terms of payment had been mentioned and that it was the Department's present intention to reply to the French that this matter would be taken under advisement and that the US would answer the French specifically after further study. There was some expression both on the part of the Department and the Joint Chiefs that furnishing the French with some IRBMs might be constructive.

STAT

  
HUNTINGTON S. SHELDON

Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence

SECRET